

Burns Nicht 2008

Our 2008 Burns' Nicht on Saturday, January 26, will mark an important milestone for Memphis lovers of Scots culture, the twenty-fifth consecutive celebration here of the bard's birthday.

The first Burns' Nicht in 1984 and for many years after, was held at Idlewild Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Memphis Scottish Country Dancers. It was the vision of their teacher, Dr. Pete Douglass, to draw together Mid-South lovers of Scotland and its national poet, with the aim of leading to the formation of a Scottish society for our area. This goal was attained later that spring with the organization of the Memphis Scottish Society, and Dr. Douglass was elected our first President.

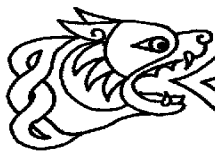
Again held at Woodland Hills Country Club at 6:00 PM, with dinner served at 7:00 PM, and preceded by our annual Patrons' Reception from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, the evening will include all the traditional elements mandatory for Burn's Nicht: the presentation of the haggis and Burns'

"Ode" in its homage, the toasts to the Lads and Lasses, "The Immortal Memory," and "Auld Lang Syne," along with the skirl of the pipes, the flash of the kilt in spirited dancing, and the well-loved songs and poems of Burns. Our entertainment will be provided by the talented local group "Celtic World".

Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, January 19, \$60 for all - \$70 for Patrons and \$100 for Benefactors. There is a \$10 discount for seniors over 65. Send ticket requests to Burns' Nicht, c/o Memphis Scottish Society, P.O. Box 241934, Memphis, TN 38124-1934, or call 901-757-4200 for more information.



A Milestone Burns Nicht



Reservations required for Burns Nicht tickets by January 19th!

Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. Board

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In the healthcare industry there's a reference to an earlier time that goes, "...when doctors drove Buicks", citing a time when our medicos drove those more than respectable (though not luxury) vehicles. Did you know that Buicks have a **Scottish Connection**?

David Dunbar Buick, who gave his name to the manufactory and its distinctive automobiles, was born in Arbroath, Angus in 1854. His parents immigrated to the US when he was two years old.

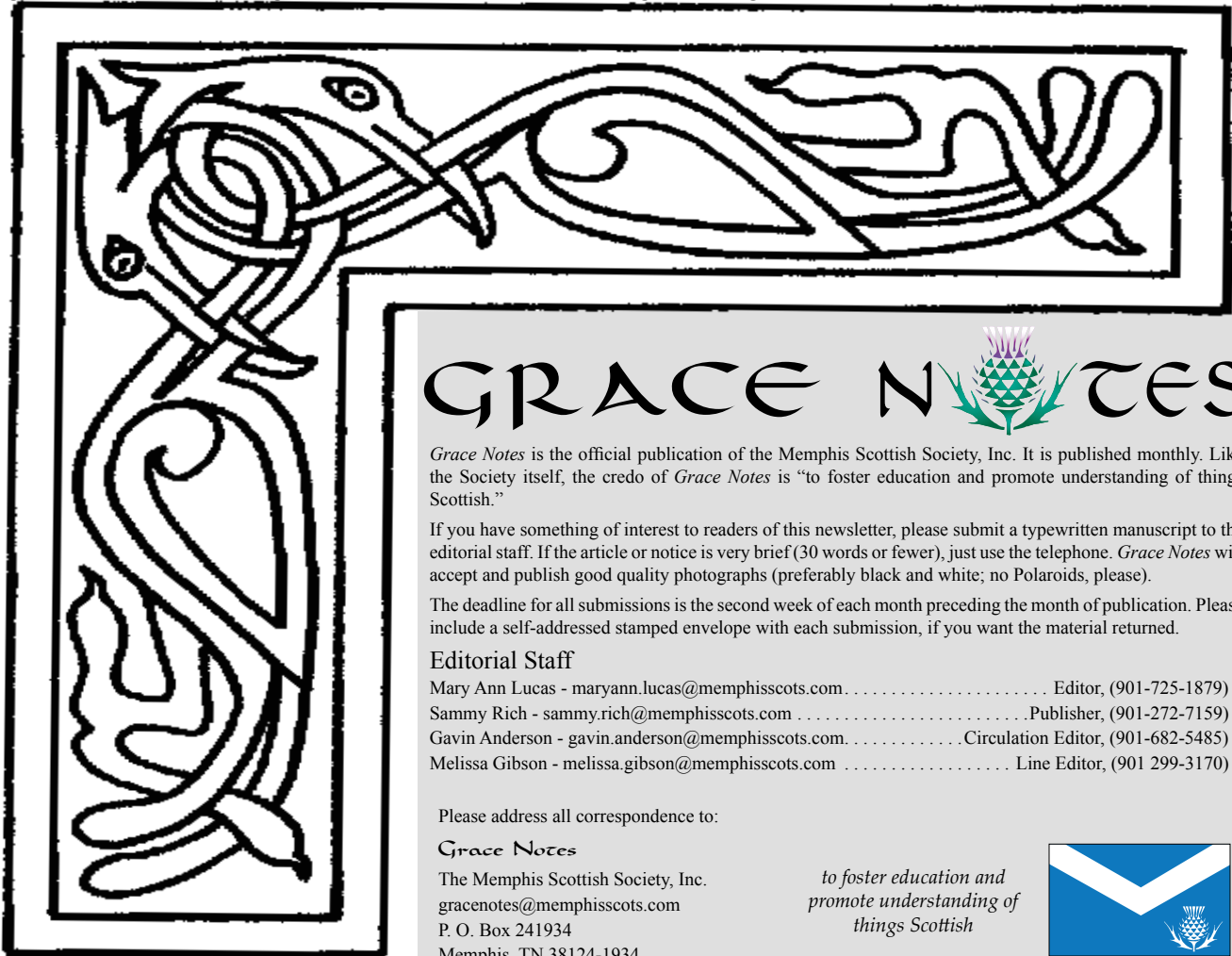
He first gained fame and a bit of fortune with his invention of a relatively inexpensive method for enameling a white ceramic coating onto cast

iron bathtubs, which was at the time the height of luxury. His proceeds enabled him to purchase a small firm and rename it the Buick Manufacturing Company. His strengths lay in research & development, and in a short time his company had developed an improvement to the internal combustion engine that is still used to some degree today (in the "push-rod" engines of GM and Chrysler). His overhead valve engine yielded much greater power than the side valve engine which was the standard of the day. Though his intention was to install his engine exclusively in farm equipment, he was eventually convinced to permit its use in personal passenger automobiles, setting the stage for

the emergence of the Buick Motor Company. His invention supplied the initiation of that venerable company's success, but it was his partner William C. Durant who moved it to the cornerstone of the General Motors Corporation by buying out Buick's shares in BMC and then purchasing the Cadillac, Oldsmobile, Vauxhall, Opel, and Chevrolet lines.

Buick died at the age of 74 in 1929. Though it is a household word in the US, his name and his clever inventions are virtually unknown in his native land.

So, next time you are distracted by the Jaguars in the doctors' parking lot, remember when doctors drove Buicks and Buick's **Scottish Connection**.



GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of Grace Notes is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), just use the telephone. Grace Notes will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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Grace Notes

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to foster education and
promote understanding of
things Scottish



OOT n OOH

By now I am assured you have had plenty of time to consider your nominations to the Grace Notes Staff or our President, John Schultz, for the **Order of the Thistle** and **Order of the Heather** awards. If you haven't, please take a few moments to think about our members and how they have served our society, and let's give them a little love back in the form of this really-quite-simple recognition of a job well done. There is always room for one more the next year. Please submit in writing or give us a call (our numbers are listed on page 2) with your nominations by January 15th as we will announce at Burns Nicht! Thanks. Sammy Rich

Check It Out

At the suggestion of MSSI member Diane Wade, the board has been considering a different site for our monthly members' meeting. In fact, the November board meeting was held at Jason's Deli at the corner of Poplar @ Highland (in the southwest corner of the building housing Buster's & El Chico's), and the board found much about its location, menu, & meeting facility to recommend it. At the December members' meeting (the party on 12/10 at Neshoba Unitarian Church), president John Schultz asked members to inspect the site & menu themselves and to provide feedback to the board. **Soooo**, that's your mission, troops; let any member of the old or new board know your findings.

Read All About It

You can't believe everything you read in the paper, but the pictures you most often can:

- Was that a picture of our Ben Kemker in the paper on Veterans' Day at the Doughboy Statue in Overton Park? Yes, it was. In fact there were pictures of both Ben Kemkers, proud dad & newly promoted civilian.
- Was that our Jim Moffat & his lovely bride, then & now, in the "How We Met" column in December? Yes, it was, and if you had trouble recognizing our Jim, it's because he has lost a whopping amount of weight since that picture was taken. Go, Guy!
- Was that our Auld Country in the pictures which accompanied the story about the film The Water Horse in the travel section on 12/30? Yes, it was, and if you liked the lovely stills in the paper, you'll love moving pics. If you miss the movie at the first-run theaters, do catch it at the 2nd run movie houses; this is definitely one to see on the big screen.

Smithfield Fair - Celtic Album of the Year?

After my monumental screw-up about nominations on "No Celtic Boundaries" from Lockbroom FM in Scotland (and Highlander Internet Radio here in the U.S.) - our friends in North Carolina notified us that "Celtic Winds" program on WNCW radio in North Carolina have been REALLY playing Longships and 20420 and we are nominated for Celtic album of the year. Here's the deal - you go to their site (www.wncw.org) and click on the link on the front page center for "Contest Page". To enter, you have to nominate 10 albums of the year - general and we're not in this (I had trouble picking 10 albums from those listed) and then you can vote for Celtic album. The blues, regional, etc. categories are optional. So, if you want to help us out and get more airplay - please consider voting and you have our undying thanks.

BTW - in just a few moments Jan and I will be doing a 1 hour interview with Charles Dewhurst in Scotland for his "No Celtic Boundaries" program. Charles has really enjoyed our CDs - labeling them "Brilliant!" and we'll do the interview for him to mix in with the music. He's already done similar programs/interviews with Paul Brady, Mary Black and the like. Quite an honor.

Just a final bit of news - yesterday, Jan, Frang, Bob and I gathered with David Praet and former fourth Charmer member Joel Smith at the studio to re-record our original 1977 single "A Place In Your Heart" and my 1983 EP track "The Eleventh Hour Tango". They are smashing and will be added to "Charmer: The Perfect Cafe" for re-release in 2008 with new graphics. It was fun - lots of laughter and a great sound. A lot like riding a bicycle after a long break. More on that as it arrives.

Again, thanks for your love and support in 2007 and here's hoping the best of all times for you at the holidays and in the new years. Cheers! dbs

Dudley-Brian Smith / Smithfield Fair/Stevenson Productions

www.smithfieldfair.com / www.myspace.com/smithfieldfair / E-mail: info@smithfieldfair.com

A Song of Patriotic Prejudice

You know, it's a curious thing, I don't know if you've ever thought of this, but England hasn't really got a national song, you know, just for England; there's plenty for Great Britain. That's quite different. You have to be very careful how you use these terms, too. The rule is: if we've done anything good, it's "another triumph for Great Britain" and if we haven't, it's "England loses again". Have you noticed that?

All the others, they've got songs about their countries, you know, the Scots, like "Scotland for aye" (or for "me" as it should more properly be). And the Welsh and the Irish have got songs saying how marvelous they are and making rude remarks about the English in their own languages. In the case of the Welsh I think this is the pot calling the saucepan "bach".

What English national song have

we got? "Jerusalem" . . . "There'll always be an England". Well, that's not saying much, is it? I mean, there'll always be a North Pole, if some dangerous clown doesn't go and melt it.

I think that the reason for this is that in the old days - you know, the good old days when I was a boy - people didn't, we didn't bother in England about nationalism. I mean, nationalism was on its way out. We'd got pretty well everything we wanted and we didn't go around saying how marvelous we were - everybody knew that - any more than we bothered to put our names on our stamps. I mean, there's only two kinds of stamps: English stamps in sets at the beginning of the album, and foreign stamps all mixed at the other end. Any gibbon could tell you that.

But nowadays nationalism is on the up and up and everybody has a national

song but us. The Americans have national songs, like "My country 'tis of thee", which they sing to the tune of "God save the Queen", I may say, and which together with their long range forecasting of our weather I find hard to forgive. Yes, and the Germans - and whatever you say about the Germans (and who doesn't) - what a marvelous song that was: "German, German overalls". Now there's a song.

Well, the moment has come, and none too soon; we have a song here which, I think, fills this long-felt want and I hope that all true-born English men and women in our audience will join in the last chorus. And if you don't have the good fortune to be English true-born, or a man, or a woman, I hope you'll join in as an ordinary mark of simple decent respect. This song starts with, I think, a very typical English understatement.



The English, the English, the English are best./I wouldn't give tuppence for all of the rest.

The rottenest bits of these islands of ours./We've left in the hands of three unfriendly powers./Examine the Irishman, Welshman or Scot./You'll find he's a stinker, as likely as not.

Och aye, awa' wi' yon Edinburgh Festival

The Scotsman is mean, as we're all well aware/And bony and blotchy and covered with hair./He eats salty porridge, he works all the day/and he hasn't got bishops to show him the way!

The English, the English, the English are best./I wouldn't give tuppence for all of the rest.

Ah hit me old mother over the head with a shillelagh.

The Irishman now out contempt is beneath./ He sleeps in his boots and he lies through his teeth./ He blows

up policemen, or so I have heard/ and blames it on Cromwell and William the Third!

The English are noble, the English are nice,/And worth any other at double the price

Ah, iechyd da

The Welshman's dishonest and cheats when he can./And little and dark, more like monkey than man./He works underground with a lamp in his hat/ and he sings far too loud, far too often, and flat!

And crossing the Channel, one cannot say much./ of French and the Spanish, the Danish or Dutch./The Germans are German, the Russians are red, / and the Greeks and Italians eat garlic in bed!

The English are moral, the English are good/and clever and modest and misunderstood.

And all the world over, each nation's the same./They've simply

no notion of playing the game./They argue with umpires, they cheer when they've won/and they practice beforehand which ruins the fun!

The English, the English, the English are best./So up with the English and down with the rest.

It's not that they're wicked or naturally bad./It's knowing they're foreign that makes them so mad!/
For the English are all that a nation should be, / And the flower of the English are Donald (Michael)

Donald (Michael) and Me!

From the album *At the Drop of Another Hat* with Michael Flanders and Donald Swann.

Thanks to Sue Malone for sharing this bit of English pride with us.

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.
Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday
Scottish Country Dancing.
274-1889

Monday, January 14

Monthly Meeting Holiday Inn at
Poplar and I 240. For directions
call 757-4200 or go to
memphisscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner (reservations
required the Thursday before)
7:00 pm Program: Scotland 101:
Tartans, Kilts, & Clans

Sunday, January 20

Kirkin' of the Tartans
10:30 a.m.
St. John's Episcopal

Thursday, January 31

Board Meeting: Perkins at
1340 S. G'town Rd. 5:30 pm.



Scotland - The First 10,000 Years Part I

Taken from the Spring 2008 catalog of the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning, Rhodes College, 2000 N. Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112

From the first, undocumented hunter-gatherers, migrations and invasions have shaped the land and the history of Scotland. Since the scattered settlements of the earliest inhabitants following the last Ice Age evolved into complex confederations of tribes, Scots were capable of a united front against the imperial power of Rome. Invasions, first by Norse raiders and settlers, then by the English, stimulated the movement toward unification. By the 13th century, heroic leaders, empowered by a national determination to guarantee the independence of the fledgling state, began to redefine Scottish identity. Through the centuries of conflict with its powerful Germanic neighbors to the south, however, Scotland would

struggle to maintain itself until 1707, when the union with England would negotiate away its independence, but provide her with an Empire.

Scotland - The First 10,000 Years is a course series in four parts, each comprised of four illustrated lectures exploring the general history of Scotland, and focused on a principal theme in Scottish history: Who Are the Scots? Scottish Independence, the Reformation, and the union with England. Who Are the Scots? first in the series, will focus on the earliest settlers of North Britain, noting their impact on the land, their response to the environment, and their development into communities. Who Are the Scots? will provide the foundation for each of the following themes in the course series. In the summer of 2009, Rhodes to Travel will offer a trip to Scotland - details to be announced.

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Will Return Shortly

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"
Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3

*William Maynard, Ph.D., Durham
University, England*

*Associate Professor of History,
Arkansas State University*

*Four Mondays: Feb. 4-25, 5:30-
7:30 PM. \$120, .8 CEU*

*How to contact Meeman Center
Telephone: (901)843-3965*

E-mail: whittaker@rhodes.edu

Web: www.meeman.rhodes.edu

*Thanks To Betty Westmoreland
for finding this information!*

Basic Vanilla Scone

This is not my recipe, but it is the one that the Chef at Crumpets uses that he personally got from his trip to Scotland in search of the best and most authentic recipes possible. I don't know about anyone else, but it won my vote. It was simply the best thing I ate at the St. Andrews Day Tea. Give it a try. SRich

<i>4 cups flour</i>	<i>½ lb. cold butter, grated</i>
<i>1 ¼ cups granulated sugar</i>	<i>2 eggs</i>
<i>2 tbs baking powder</i>	<i>1 cup – whipping cream</i>
<i>1 tbs salt</i>	<i>1 oz – pure vanilla extract</i>

Mix all dry ingredients, cut in cold butter. Add wet ingredients - mixed together; Mix with large fork; Dump on floured table and form dough; cut with cookie cutter; Prick holes in top with fork; Bake at 450° for 10 minutes, turn pan and bake for another 8-10 minutes.

Next Monthly Meeting - January 14th - Monthly Meeting (reservations required for dinner), 757-4200 or online www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn Poplar & I-240, Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, January 31st at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 241934

Memphis, TN 38124-1934

